



Course Information Algebra 1 2023-2024

Course Description

The goal of the Algebra 1 team is to lay the foundation for all future math courses. We want all our students to understand and appreciate the mathematics they are studying; that they can read it, write it, explore it, and communicate it with confidence; and that they will be able to use mathematics as they need to in their lives.

We believe that problem solving (investigating, conjecturing, predicting, analyzing, and verifying), followed by a well-reasoned presentation of results, is central to the process of learning mathematics, and that this learning happens most effectively in a cooperative, student-centered classroom.

Class Procedures

When the bell rings, students are expected to be quiet, with HW and/or notes and supplies ready. Students are to have a fully charged laptop every day. This course is problem-based, student-centered and dependent upon discussion. Be prepared to work on problems and share solutions with a partner, group or class.

Grading

The following system will be used to determine grades:

Tests 60%

Quizzes/ Homework/Daily Participation 40%

Tests - There will be at least three Unit tests each six weeks on predetermined dates. Tests can and will contain any topics covered throughout the year up to the test date.

Retake Policy – Students are allowed to retake **tests** with grades below 70%.

- Only one retake per test. Maximum score on a retake is 70%.
- Retake must be completed within one week of original test grade being posted.
- Students are **required** to attend tutorials on a designated day prior to retesting.

Quizzes - The purpose of quizzes in this class is to check for your understanding of topics covered every few days. Quizzes can be announced or pop, solo, partner, or group. You will be able to use notes on some quizzes and not on others. There are no retakes on quizzes.

Homework/Participation - Homework is necessary for practice and for mastering the material covered. You will be graded on daily assignments. You must keep your materials organized and all work must be shown, and explanations clear to receive credit. Other grades may include spot check on homework and for participating in discussions and putting problems on the board.

Late Work – All late assignments will only be accepted 1 day past the due date and will receive 25 points off that assignment grade. Online homework will not be accepted late.

Absences/Make-Up Work

If you miss class for any reason, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to find out what it is that you missed. **If you miss the day that an assignment is due, you must turn it in the following day you are in school to receive full credit.** If you miss a quiz or test day, it is expected that you will make up the test or quiz the day you return on your own time. If you miss multiple days, we will plan as needed.

Tutoring

The Algebra 1 team at Westside makes every effort to accommodate as many tutorial times as possible. There will be opportunities before school, during lunch, and after school. Check out the tutorial's posters on our school website and/or the posters throughout school for available times.

Classroom Rules

- Be prompt, be prepared, and be polite.
- Respect others and their property.
- **Phones to always remain silent and out of sight prior to entering the classroom per Westside HS's Cell Phone Policy. No cell phone use in the classroom (non-negotiable). If the student violates the Westside cell phone policy, the phone WILL BE confiscated.**
- You may **NOT** charge your cell phone at all in class. (non-negotiable)
- Laptops may be charged in the classroom at teachers' discretion. **Ask first!**
- **NO sleeping** (non-negotiable)
- Obey all school rules (**ID ALWAYS worn around neck and in PROPER dress code**)
- Bring PENCILS with erasers EVERYDAY.
- Write your name and class period on all work.

Tardy Policy

You are expected to be in class when the tardy bell rings. If you are not, then you are considered tardy and will be required to get a tardy pass from the dean's office. Do not come to class unless you have taken care of your business (ID, uniform, tardy pass, etc.)

Final Word

This is going to be an exciting year with mathematics presented in a way that is different from anything you have done before in a math class. You should spend at least 30 minutes each evening doing math (studying and doing homework). I know that if you give it your best you will be successful in this class and show mastery of the concepts by the end of the year. Your long-term goal of becoming a high school graduate is dependent upon this class and I am looking forward to helping you achieve this goal.